

Message Text

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17-20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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USIA-15 ACDA-19 EUR-25 AF-10 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 DRC-01 /159 W

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P R 212010Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 619

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 9419

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJ: FLEXIBLE POSTURE OF DAYAN RE ISRAEL-EGYPT SITUATION

1. DURING NOV 19 VISIT BY CODEL STRATTON TO ISRAELI-HELD
SALIENT ON EGYPT'S WEST BANK, DEFENSE MINISTER DAYAN
HOSTED LUNCHEON AT FAYID AIR BASE AND MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS.

2. ISRAEL'S CONCERN AT THIS POINT IN TIME, DAYAN SAID, WAS
IMPLEMENTATION OF POINT 2 OF SIX POINT AGREEMENT, I.E.
DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES. DAYAN SAID ISRAELI PROPOSAL WAS A
RETURN OF ISRAELI FORCES EAST OF SUEZ CANAL WHILE EGYPTIAN
FORCES RETURNED TO WEST SIDE. BUFFER ZONE POLICED BY UNEF
WOULD BE BETWEEN ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN FORCES. DAYAN
EMPHASIZED THAT LINE TO WHICH ISRAELI FORCES WITHDREW WOULD
NOT BE FINAL LINE. REGARDING ISRAELI PRESENCE ON WEST BANK,
DAYAN SAID "WE ARE FOREIGNERS HERE" AND THAT EGYPTIAN
SOVEREIGNTY OVER THIS AREA WAS UNQUESTIONED BY ISRAEL.

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3. AFTER DISENGAGEMENT, DAYAN SAID EGYPTIAN CIVILIAN POPULATION

SHOULD RETURN TO THEIR HOMES, SUEZ CANAL REOPENED AND RECONSTRUCTION OF SUEZ CANAL CITIES BEGUN. DAYAN EMPHASIZED THAT ISRAELI USE OF CANAL WITHIN CONTEXT OF DISENGAGEMENT WAS NOT SOMETHING ISRAEL WOULD INSIST UPON. DAYAN SAID THAT RETURN OF THIS AREA TO CIVILIAN LIFE WOULD BE A GREATER ASSURANCE TO ISRAEL THAT EGYPT TRULY WANTED PEACE THAN ANYTHING ELSE THAT HE COULD THINK OF. RE EGYPTIAN PRESENCE ON EAST BANK OF CANAL ONCE IT WAS OPENED, DAYAN SAID AREA COULD BE SUPERVISED BY EGYPTIAN " POLICE" BUT NO MILITARY PRESENCE WOULD BE ALLOWED. " WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS AREA," HE SAID, " TO BECOME THE LAUNCHING POINT FOR ANOTHER ATTACK ON US."

4. IN RESPONSE TO REMARK THAT EGYPT HAD PUBLICLY REJECTED ABOVE PROPOSAL, DAYAN SAID HE DID NOT TAKE THIS TO BE EGYPT'S FINAL WORD. SADAT HAD MORE TO LOSE WITHOUT AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT WHICH WOULD MEAN A CONTINUED ISRAELI PRESENCE ON WEST BANK OF CANAL THAN BY AGREEING TO A MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL.

5. REGARDING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AFTER DISENGAGEMENT, DAYAN SAID" WE ARE WILLING TO GO BACK TO OUR COUNTRY" PROVIDED THAT (A) ISRAEL WAS CONVINCED THAT EGYPT WANTED A LASTING PEACE AND (B) THERE WAS A PEACE AGREEMENT BASED ON NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. HE CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS WILLING TO PAY A LARGE PRICE FOR PEACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT.
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